Amendments to the Abstract

Please **add** the following Abstract to this application.

-- A fully redundant linearly expandable router ~~(100)~~ is comprised of first, second, third and fourth router components ~~(102, 104, 106 and 108)~~. Each router component ~~(102, 104, 106 and 108)~~ includes first and second routing engines ~~(144 and 152, 178 and 186, 212 and 220, and 246 and 254)~~. First, second and third discrete links ~~(110, 112 and 114)~~ couple the first routing engine ~~(144)~~ to the first routing engines ~~(178, 212 and 246)~~, respectively. Fourth and fifth discrete links ~~(116 and 118)~~ couple the first routing engine ~~(178)~~ to the first routing engines ~~(212 and 246)~~, respectively. A sixth discrete link ~~(120)~~ couples the routing engine ~~(212)~~ to the routing engine ~~(246)~~. Seventh, eighth and ninth discrete links ~~(122, 124 and 126)~~ couple the second routing engine ~~(152)~~ to the second routing engines ~~(186, 220 and 254)~~, respectively. Tenth and eleventh discrete links ~~(128 and 130)~~ couple the second routing engine ~~(186)~~ to the second routing engines ~~(220 and 254)~~, respectively. A twelfth discrete link ~~(132)~~ couples the routing engine ~~(220)~~ to the router engine ~~(254)~~. --